

INFORMATION REPORT

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there would be trade negotiations between Hungary and Czechoslovakia commencing about 30 June to settle the question of the outstanding debts between the two countries. Questions have been sent and received by both sides and accepted as a basis for argument. The Czechs, thought they were in the position of creditor, but this is not the case, as the Hungarian claims will amount to some 15 billion forints, owing to the claims in respect of Hungarian properties expropriated from Hungarian citizens in Czechoslovakia, e.g. the confiscated landed estates of the old aristocracy. Reparations do not, of course, enter into these negotiations.

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that such negotiations would have been impossible four months ago. They have now been facilitated indirectly by Soviet influence which has been responsible for the change in regime in Czechoslovakia. On the other hand, he denies that the trade negotiations between the various satellites are directly controlled by the Russians, who show no interest in the details of the agreements. He does not agree that the various trade agreements recently concluded and in process of negotiation between the different satellites have been dictated by Russia. For example, during the present Hungarian-Rumanian trade negotiations the Rumanian delegates were in Budapest three weeks and not the slightest progress was made with the talks.

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